

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**November 16, 2004**

**IN RE:**

**PETITION OF ATMOS ENERGY CORPORATION  
FOR APPROVAL OF FRANCHISE AGREEMENT  
WITH COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE**

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**DOCKET NO.  
04-00318**

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**ORDER APPROVING MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE DIRECT  
TESTIMONY AND TO RESCHEDULE HEARING**

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This matter is before the Hearing Officer for consideration of *Atmos Energy Corporation's Motion for Extension of Time to File Direct Testimony and to Reschedule Hearing* ("Motion").

**Background**

On September 28, 2004 Atmos Energy Corporation ("Atmos" or "the Company") filed its *Petition of Atmos Energy Corporation for Approval of Franchise Agreement with Columbia, Tennessee* ("Petition"). On November 9, 2004 the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA" or "Authority") issued a Notice of Hearing ("Notice") setting the Hearing on the merits of the *Petition* for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22, 2004 during the regularly scheduled Authority Conference. The Notice directed all pre-filed testimony to be filed with the Authority no later than 2:00 p.m. on November 17, 2004. The Notice directed that any motion to change the date for the Hearing or the date for the filing of pre-filed testimony must be filed with the Office of the Chairman of the Authority no later than seven (7) days from the date of the Notice.

### **The Motion**

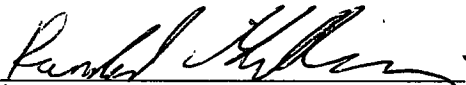
Atmos filed its *Motion* on November 12, 2004. In its *Motion* Atmos asks that the Hearing on the merits of the *Petition* be rescheduled to coincide with the hearing on the merits of the a petition for approval of a franchise agreement between Atmos and the City of Maryville, Tennessee filed on November 8, 2004 and currently pending in Docket No. 04-00397. Atmos also requests that the dates for filing testimony set in the Notice be extended to a date in mid-December at the earliest.

### **Discussion**

The Hearing Officer finds the *Motion* was timely filed and that Atmos' request to coordinate the hearings in this docket and Docket No. 04-00397 is reasonable. Based on the foregoing, the Hearing Officer finds that the *Motion* is well taken and should be granted.

### **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Hearing presently set in this docket for November 22, 2004 is hereby postponed. The Hearing will be rescheduled by separate order of the Authority.
2. All pre-filed testimony shall be filed with the Office of the Chairman of the Authority no later than **2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31, 2004.**

  
Randal Gilliam, Hearing Officer